

**Whereas**, it is with considerable pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State religious institutions which have demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to meeting the spiritual needs of residents in local communities and neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, First Southern Baptist Church of Stockton enjoys a stellar history which dates to a revival which was held by the Nevada (Missouri) Baptist Association in the fall of 1953 in the upstairs of the old Farmers Building on East Street; and

**Whereas**, led by Associational Missionary Charles Elton Clemmons with assistance by Brother Fred Boyles as song leader, the Stockton revival proved to be a rousing success and was truly an ecumenical event with pews and a piano loaned by the Assembly of God Church and a Sunday School organized on November 22, 1953, through the visionary leadership of Mrs. Clemmons; and

**Whereas**, with First Baptist Church of Nevada accepting responsibility for the new mission, land for a church building was purchased on Hays Street in Stockton followed by groundbreaking ceremonies on April 5, 1954, and the call of the Reverend Fred Boyles as the mission's first pastor in September 1954; and

**Whereas**, First Southern Baptist Church outgrew its mission status on October 5, 1969, and its original building in 1978, since which time it has doubled its membership and expanded its facilities through the addition of a Christian Life Center consisting of a gymnasium, kitchen, and classroom space; and

**Whereas**, in addition to the Reverend Fred Boyles, First Southern Baptist Church has been led by Pastors Clyde Spurgin, Ralph New, H.C. Dykes, Donald Gundy, Arnold Peterson, Larry Chapman, Danny Carroll, Frank Fincher, Ron Gross, Larry Greenfield, and Ron Foley, who has diligently served since June 2002:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the stellar history of service garnered by the leaders and members of First Southern Baptist Church and to convey to all of those who have actively participated in the worship and educational opportunities available to them down through the years this legislative body's heartiest congratulations upon reaching the Golden Anniversary of the founding of their church and our best wishes for many more celebratory events to follow; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of First Southern Baptist Church of Stockton, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Ronnie Miller  
District No. 133

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker